

Summary of Statewide Landings for Shellfish Species from 1994 to 2002

During the 1994 to 2002 period, the majority of shellfish landings consisted of hard blue crabs and shrimp. Hard blue crabs dominated the landings for shellfish composing 82% of the total number of pounds of shellfish (Table 58). Shrimp ranked second in total landings accounting for 13% of the total landings. Hard blue crabs also ranked first accounting for 48% of the number of trips reporting shellfish landings. Hard clams ranked second having been landed in 20% of all trips while peeler blue crabs ranked third having been landed in 12% of all trips. Hard blue crabs ranked first in CPUE while shrimp ranked second.

The majority of the revenue generated from shellfish was also attributable to hard blue crabs and shrimp. Hard blue crabs generated the most revenue during the 1994 to 2002 period, accounting for 53% of total value for all shellfish (Table 59). Landings from shrimp ranked second accounting having accounted for 29% of the total value from shellfish landings. The current value for hard blue crabs during this period was \$294 million and the deflated value was \$75 million making it the most valuable commercial fishery in the state. The current value for shrimp was \$160 million and the deflated value \$41 million during this period making it the second most valuable commercial fishery to the state.

Shellfish Species Profiles

Bay Scallop (*Argopecten irradians*)

Bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*) have been identified for the future development of a state fishery management plan in North Carolina. Bay scallops have a range extending from New Jersey to the Gulf of Mexico and can reach a length of up to 3 inches (Kaplan 1988). In North Carolina, the majority of bay scallops are harvested from Core and Bogue sounds.